UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/48/264/Add.6
17 January 1994
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

Forty-eighth session
Agenda item 33

QUESTION OF EQUITABLE REPRESENTATION ON AND INCREASE IN THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

CONTENTS

Page

REPLIES RECEIVED FROM MEMBER STATES

Uruguay 2

URUGUAY

[Original: Spanish]

[12 January 1994]

1. In connection with item 33 of the agenda of the General Assembly entitled "Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council", Uruguay herewith submits its views.

2. It is not our aim to bring to the debate specific formulas for a solution, but rather to put forward certain general ideas which we feel should be taken into consideration.

3. The transformations that have occurred in the international community in recent years - especially the end of the cold war - have created the opportunity, we believe, for taking the initiative that is the subject of these observations.

4. In the first place, we should state that we view in a positive light the concern of the Organization in bringing its structure and functioning into line with the changing realities within the international community.

5. It is all the more important to recognize this fact when our preoccupations involve an organ of such importance as the Security Council.

6. The increase in the number of States Members of the Organization following the first impetus of the decolonization movement in the 1960s gave rise to the expansion of the membership of the Council in 1967.

7. The even bigger increase in the membership of the United Nations that occurred after that date could not fail to encourage new initiatives for expansion.

8. We consider these initiatives to be positive to the extent that they help to consolidate international peace and security and also, where appropriate, to render more effective the application of the principle of equitable geographical distribution.

9. Moreover, we realize that any attempt to increase the number of members of the Council might jeopardize the efficacy of the action of an organ that is by nature basically executive, and also upset the measure of equilibrium existing between the two categories of members that it comprises.

10. With regard to the latter point, we are aware that it is proposed to increase not only the number of non-permanent members but also the number of permanent members, and even to allow for the possibility of establishing an intermediate category.

11. It is well known that the different rights enjoyed by States in connection with the composition and functioning of the Council have been the subject of the most polemics since the entry into force of the Charter adopted in San Francisco.

12. In our opinion, such differentiation may be sustained from a legal standpoint only on the basis of the principle that greater rights should entail - as their concomitant - greater responsibilities, at least with respect to the maintenance of international peace and security.

13. Only in this way - in our judgement - would it be possible to silence the voices of those who consider that the current composition and functioning of the Council represent a departure from the principle of the juridical equality of States.

14. In keeping with the philosophy which inspired the present organization of the Council, we are cognizant of the existence, at the present time, of States which have acquired that degree of importance where they can legitimately aspire to a treatment equivalent or similar to that enjoyed by the permanent members.

15. Moreover, should the present structure of the Council be maintained, it would be appropriate that the composition and functioning of the Council should reflect as faithfully as possible the philosophy which inspired it. In other words, at each moment in history, all the major States are committed - to the same extent and with the same prerogatives - to the maintenance of international peace and security.

16. In any case, if the question of amending the Charter is to be addressed, it would be appropriate in this respect to state explicitly what greater responsibilities devolve upon those members of the Council which enjoy special treatment. This could be, for example, by defining their increased commitment to peace-keeping operations or to the financing either of those operations or of the Organization itself.

17. Uruguay puts forward the above suggestions with no other purpose than to contribute to the strengthening of the action of the Security Council in carrying out its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security.

18. In that regard, our country can point with pride, as proof of its concern and of its tangible inputs in this field, to its important contribution in terms of military strength to the operations authorized by the Organization during the past year.